FOREST SERVICE

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THE FOREST SERVICE

History Line

LIBRARY
1978
ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATION

1876 1974

To: History Coordinators
Forest Service Personnel

1680
Summer, 1974

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Two 50th Anniversaries.--The first week in June marked two significant half-century anniversaries for the Forest Service: Gila Wilderness, New Mexico, June 3; and Clarke-McNary Act, June 7 (Federal-State cooperation in fire control and tree planting). Secretary Butz and Chief McGuire spoke at the Gila celebration, as did Gov. Bruce King and Sigurd Olson, past president of Wilderness Society. The Society presented a plaque to the Forest Service. Arthur Godfrey was emcee. Clinton Anderson, former Senator and Secretary of Agriculture, and relatives of Aldo Leopold were guests. Leopold, Arthur Carhart and Robert Marshall were mentioned in the Secretary's talk as Forest Service wilderness pioneers. Incidentally, Carhart was in Washington in May to receive a special award from American Motors recognizing some 20 years of service on its selection committee for annual conservation writing awards.

Was Yale "Father" of Forest Service? --Seven out of the 12 men who have headed forestry work in the U.S. Department of Agriculture were graduates of Yale University, according to the Yale Forest School (Alumni) News, and one was Dean of its Forest School. Six of the nine Forest Service Chiefs were Yale graduates, and five of them (except Gifford Pinchot who created the Yale Forest School) were graduates of the Yale Forest School or School of Forestry as it was later called. These five are: Henry Graves (AB '92, AM '00, Dean of Forest School 1900-10 and 1922-39); William Greeley ('04); Robert Stuart ('06); Ferdinand Silcox ('05), and John McGuire (MF'41) . . .The seventh man was Nathaniel Egleston, second Chief of the Division of Forestry (1883-86), a founder of the American Forestry Association in 1875, and an 1843 graduate of Yale Divinity School. . .The History Office plans to compile and issue a booklet giving biographical profiles of each of the Chiefs for the centennial.

Pinchot in Penna. Hall of Fame.-- Gifford Pinchot made the second group of six famous native sons to be selected for the Pennsylvania Hall of Fame. Among those named along with him were James Buchanan, 15th U.S. President; Stephen Foster, famous songwriter; and John Wanamaker, well-known department store pioneer. The first group included William Penn and Benjamin Franklin, in addition to four others less well known nationally. Chief McGuire was a guest and spoke briefly at the ceremony last year honoring Pinchot.

Our First Woman Writer--Another significant historical item is a revised version of the first teacher's guide to forest conservation prepared by the

Forest Service, Forest Study in the Primary Grades. It was published in 1917 in cooperation with the Michigan Public Domain Commission. The author was Edith R. Mosher, a former Michigan kindergarten teacher who joined the Forest Service in 1905 as a clerk after a few years with the General Land Office and the Census Bureau. She was probably the first woman writer in the Forest Service, though she was not employed as such. She also wrote Constructive Tree Study Lessons, which was adopted by the Michigan Department of Public Instruction for public school use. Both proved very popular in Michigan and neighboring states. She also wrote the leaflets, Our Fruit and Nut-Bearing Trees, Our Oaks and Maples, and Our Cone-Bearing Trees. Miss Mosher worked for the Forest Service until 1920 when she retired on disability because of tuberculosis and moved to Colorado and New Mexico for treatment. Her early teacher's guide was both descriptive and inspirational in tone, well illustrated, and was full of numerous short literary selections about trees and forests, both prose and poetry (especially poetry!) from prominent English and American writers of the 18th and 19th Centuries, and a tale of her own. The Introduction to the first edition was written by Chase S. Osborn, then Governor of Michigan, and the Introduction to the second edition, published in 1953, was written by Paul A.Herbert, then Director of the School of Conservation, Michigan State College. Miss Mosher supplemented her knowledge of trees by attending summer courses in forestry at Yale University. She also took summer courses at Harvard and at George Washington University in D.C., and even taught at New York University summer school. Miss Mosher had a trait shared by many women--she admitted to younger than her actual age as she grew older. To get her pension she had to make a notarized statement of her birthdate, because she had given four different years on various personnel sheets at different times during her employment, from 1874 to 1883. She was actually born November 28, 1874, so this year marks her centennary as well as that of forestry in the U.S. Department of Agriculture . . . Another book on forest conservation and the Forest Service, Man and Trees, written in 1939 for high school social science students by Joseph Gaer for National Problems Series of Harcourt, Brace & Co., has come to the attention of the History Office. It is written in a simple, popular style, but would probably be considered fifth or sixth-grade level today.

Region 5 Accomplishments.--The California Region has an impressive list of histories written of its National Forests--eight--all written before 1947, however. Three were written in 1945 by William S. Brown, then chief information specialist--Angeles, Los Padres, and Modoc. An early history of the Mendocino was written in 1946 by Frank P. Forest, Supervisor 1929-42. Douglas Robinson wrote a brief history of the Inyo in 1943. Six supervisors wrote personal reminiscences in 1940--Robert Abbey, Ranger from 1905 to 1920; Clarence Wiley, veteran forest inspector for the Region; Louis Dorr (Angeles) Roy Boothe (Inyo), mostly about the Sierra; J.R. Hall (Stanislaus), and Thomas J. Jones (Klamath). R.L.P. Bigelow wrote a history of the Tahoe in 1926. A history of the first years of the Plumas was written by L.A. Barrett first Supervisor, and a history of lumbering there has just been compiled.

A story of the beginning, growth and division of the old Sierra was written in 1917, and a sawmill history of the Sierra, reaching back to 1852, was compiled in 1940 by Bert Hurt. The Sequoia has a "Brief History" on hand. An early history of the Stanislaus was written in 1911 by Robert Ayres, Supervisor, who also compiled a summary of the origin of the names of the Forests in the Region in 1909 and revised it in 1938. Ayres wrote a history of timber managment in the California National Forests, 1850-1937 after retirement. . . Another period

history of the California Region, 1920-1948, was written by Robert L. Deering, longtime Operations Chief there who is now living in San Francisco. . . Stuart B. Show, Regional Forester from 1926-46, wrote on the brushfields in 1922 when he was in charge of research there, following a similar report for the old California NF (now Mendocino) by S.W. Strothman in 1914. A report on land use on the Eldorado, 1920-50, was written by Edwin Smith, Supervisor. Thomas C. West, Supervisor of the Klamath in the early 1920s, wrote a history of California forest fires (1899-1925), complementing one in 1935 by L.A. Barrett on forest and field fires from the early days of the early explorers up to the creation of the Forest Reserves. Barrett was Assistant Forester for Lands, 1911-35. The California Region, through Grant A. Morse, recently retired I&E Chief, was one of the first to issue instructions and guidelines to Forest Supervisors and Division Chiefs, two years ago, to implement the history program. R-5 has had a Regional Archeology-History Committee since September 1971, largely centered on identification of sites identified with antiquities. An initial inventory recently completed showed 1,473 prehistoric (Indian) sites and 618 historic sites. As elsewhere in the West, the principal single category of the latter is mining with 157. During 1927 over 200 archeological sites were recorded by Forest Service employees in R-5 who had received specialized training in field techniques through Michigan State University; these sites will be protected. A Natural Landmarks Inventory has also been conducted by R-5 in cooperation with the National Park Service, consisting principally of volcanio features in the Inyo and Modoc National Forests. The Regional Committee will be doing more in Forest Service history in the future, involving retirees as much as possible, and putting special emphasis upon taped oral histories, it has been decided. . .A few R-5 forests issued guidelines to their Ranger Districts, even before receiving the 1680 History Directive from WO. The Cleveland and Plumas forests have set up small museums with display cases in the reception areas of the supervisors' offices to show objects used by the early Rangers, and the Cleveland forest has developed exhibits and photos to exchange with District offices. Both thus preceded by some time a recent suggestion to all field offices from the Washington Office, Division of Recreation. The Cleveland forest taped an interview about 1967-68 with Nash Boulden, an early supervisor . . .Other California forests have also gone ahead during the past several years on developing their histories. The Tahoe forest has a taped interview with Evan W. Kelley, retired R-1 RF. The Stanislaus forest interviews its old-timers occasionally for transcribing and filing. Six Rivers is cooperating with historical societies and the State University library at Humboldt. Thirteen R-5 forests have submitted to the RO lists of retirees for potential interviewing and/or FS personnel actively interested in history, and six forests have provided lists of historical materials they have on hand. . .In addition to many of the histories mentioned above, the R-5 I&E office reports it has copies of a history of the CCC program in R-5, 1933-43, by Frank Price and R.L. Deering; a record of the Civilian Public Service Camp Program, 1942-46 by Price; a history of California land use and management, by William S. Brown and S.B. Show, 1944 (6 volumes); and Sky Watchers of the Hinterland, a history of the Aircraft Warning Service in California, 1944. The Cleveland forest has a 1919 study on aircraft fire observation. . .A collection of 25 old CCC photos was recently gathered by R-5 I&E for a special display in the Oakland Museum. The R-5 Engineering Division has autobiographies of four retired Regional Engineers. R-5 S&PF assisted C. Raymond Clar in writing his California Government in Forestry (1959) and with his preparation of a sequel recently. . .The University of California forestry library has a number of historical materials of importance to the Forest

Service including Sudworth's original notebooks and photos, and several volumes of abstracts from various sources, 1850-1920, on general forest management in California.

Other Regions and Stations.--Writers of Regional and Forest histories could gain some ideas on how a history should be written from the review of Region 3's Men Who Matched the Mountains. The review was written by Richard Lillard and published in the October 1973 issue of Forest History magazine, summarized in last issue of History Line. Other Regions, particularly 1, 2, 4, and 9, have also gone ahead on projects, and so have some Stations. Some of these have been mentioned in previous issues of History Line, and others will be mentioned in future issues. Region 10 (Alaska) has assisted in listing candidates for Register of Historic Sites, besides getting its own history written. . . .We hear from Bob Hamre, Chief Editor at Rocky Mountain Station, that Ray Price, former Director there and at the Pacific Southwestern Station, is planning to write a history of the RM Station. . .The Intermountain Station (Ogden) has compiled and published a historical account of the Great Basin Experimental Range which was the precursor of the Northern Rocky Mountain Experiment Station which was merged with the Intermountain Station in the 1950s. The job is being done by Chuck Wellner, just retired, who was Research Leader in Spokane when the PR unit was switched to it, then later became Assistant Director of the I-M Station and was in forest management research for many years, including charge of an early study of forest types in the area. Most recently he was at the Moscow, Idaho, Forestry Sciences Lab. . .The North Central Station recently issued a 50th anniversary brochure and now has in final stage of preparation a detailed history of the Lab at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, (central hardwoods). . .An item of interst from R-3 tells of the shift of a collection of fungi and dwarf mistletoe begun by Dr. W.H. Long in 1913 when he was one of first forest pathologists in the West. The southwestern specimes went to the Rocky Mountain Station, Fort Collins, where major studies of these parasites and their effects on timber are being conducted. Others went to the Forest Products Lab., Madison, Wisc., and the University of Arizona.

Fernow's 1898 Report--A valuable item turned up by the F.S. Historical Bibliography and by Dr. Herb Storey's survey of Research history is a 44-page special report prepared for Congress in 1898 by Bernhard E. Fernow, former Chief of Division of Forestry, USDA, summarizing the accomplishments of the Division under his leadership. It reveals many cooperative research projects into basic properties of wood for industrial use. It is entitled Forestry in the U.S. Department of Agriculture During the Period 1877-1898.

Other Books.--We have also added to our library a scholarly study of Federal influences on forestry made in 1951 by Luther H. Gulick, for the Institute for Public Administration, entitled American Forest Policy. . .Susan Flader, whose doctoral thesis on Aldo Leopold is scheduled to be published this year by University of Missouri Press, is now on the staff of the University of Missouri. . . A master's thesis on the T. Roosevelt-Gifford Pinchot conservation era is being written by Majorie Wickham of Washington, D.C., a staff member of California Congressman Craig Hosmer. . .The master's thesis of Gene Berghoffen, now Director of Legislative Affairs in the Washington Office, was on multiple use, we hear. . . A sensitive and lively personal account of F.S. experiences is contained in Blazing Forest Trails, by Charles D. Simpson, former Forest Supervisor in R-1 and R-4. He is in the 1921 fire conference photo sent in to us by Mr. Deering; he was then Assistant District (Regional) Forester for Operations in Ogden. . .A new revision (3rd edition) is being prepared of Prof. Shirley Allen's college text, Introduction to Forestry (McGraw-Hill), by F.S. retirees Bob Winters and Clare Hendee, and Grant Sharp of Oregon State U. A chapter is being added on economics and on international forestry.

SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL DATES FOR POSSIBLE COMMEMORATION IN 1976

Forest Service History Office

1799 - Congress authorizes first timber reserve, for U.S. Navy.

1831 - First Timber Trespass Law.

1850 - First Federal timber protection agents appointed.

1871 - Calamitous Peshtigo Fire in Wisconsin.

1872 - Arbor Day begun in Nebraska.

1873 - Timber Culture Act granted homesteaders 160 acres in Great Plains if they plant 40 acres to trees. Start of the Shelterbelt.

1873 - American Association for Advancement of Science urges Congress and States to promote timber cultivation and preserve forests.

1875 - American Forestry Association organized.

1876 - Dr. Franklin B. Hough appointed first U.S. Forest Agent, in Department of Agriculture.

1877 - A new force of Federal timber protection agents was organized in Department of Interior.

1881 - USDA forest office was made a Division.

1886 - Dr. Bernhard E. Fernow, German Forester, becomes Chief of Division of Forestry. He had first settled in the U.S. in 1876.

1891 - National Forest System was begun. Congress gave President power to set aside forest reserves. (The Creative Act.)

President Benjamin Harrison created Yellowstone and White River Timberland Reserves in Wyoming and Colorado.

1897 - Congress passed act to organize and manage the Forest Reserves. (The Organic Act.)

1898 - Gifford Pinchot appointed Chief of Forestry Division.

1901 - Division of Forestry made a Bureau.

1905 - Forest Reserves transferred from Department of Interior to Agriculture. Bureau of Forestry renamed Forest Service. (The Transfer Act.)

Significant Dates in Forest Service History

1908 - Western Districts (now Regions) set up.

1908 - First Forest Experiment Station set up, near Flagstaff, Arizona.

1910 - Forest Products Laboratory established by Forest Service at University of Wisconsin, Madison.

1910 - Terrible forest fires in the Northwest.

1911 - Congress passes Weeks Law allowing purchase of land for National Forests in the East, and cooperation with States for protection.

1919 - First Forest Service actions to protect natural and scenic areas.

1924 - First official Wilderness set aside (Gila in New Mexico).

1924 - Clarke-McNary Act allowed purchase of land valuable for timber, Extend fire protection and tree planning cooperation.

1926 - Designation of second official Wilderness (Superior).

1927 - Forest Service saves Texas Longhorn cattle from extinction.

1928 - Forest research greatly stimulated by passage of McSweeney-McNary Act.

1933 - Start of CCC program. Museum at Camp Roosevelt?

1935 - Prairie States Forestry project begun. (Shelterbelt Plantings.)

1938 - New England Hurricane stimulated a huge timber salvage project by Forest Service with States.

1946 - Bureau of Land Mangement formed from General Land Office and Grazing Service in Department of Interior.

1947 - Forest Pest Control Act.

1949 - Northeastern Interstate Fire Protection Compact.

1950 - Cooperative Forest Mangement Act. Federal help to provide technical services.

Significant Dates in Forest Service History

1953 - Forest Service acquired submarginal lands which became National Grasslands in 1960.

1955 - Multiple Use Mining Law to stop mining abuses.

1960 - Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act.

1961 - Ten-year Development program for the National Forests

1964 - Wilderness Act.

1965 - Job Corps began.

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For additional information or specific dates, please contact:

USDA Forest Service
History Office
Administrative Management Division
Room 4115, South Building
Washington, D.C. 20250

Clifford Owsley/Frank Harmon
(202) 447-2418/76199

GPO 879-413